

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This class encompasses entry level positions in the Fire Prevention Division, the primary duties of which include conducting fire inspections, enforcing life safety codes, and conducting investigations of fires suspected to be the result of arson. Employees of this class also write reports and keep records required to document Fire Prevention Division activity. Fire Prevention Officers work independently in most areas, with work reviewed by and special assignments received from the Director of Fire Prevention. This class ranks directly below that of Director of Fire Prevention.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Inspects buildings and collects information to be used in determining that buildings comply with all applicable fire safety codes, including inspecting fixed fire extinguishing systems and standpipe systems, inspecting portable fire extinguishers, inspecting storage areas for flammable and combustible liquids, checking for electrical hazards, determining that buildings meet fire resistance requirements for their construction type, inspecting heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems and cooking equipment, and assuring that the means of egress from buildings are sufficient for the assigned occupant load.

Discusses inspection findings with the building owner or manager, provides the person in charge with copies of all required forms and reports, and makes recommendations for the correction of fire hazards.

Completes a report of each fire inspection, recording all necessary information about the building, presenting facts and evidence collected during the inspections, and outlining conclusions reached and recommendations made as a result of findings.

Receives appeals for exemptions from provisions of fire codes and processes these appeals. Enforces fire prevention codes and ordinances by reinspecting buildings where violations of fire codes occurred and, if necessary, issuing citations, assessing fines, or serving court summonses or stop work orders for non-compliance with fire codes. Prepares information and evidence from inspections for use in a court proceeding and testifies in court or serves as an advisor to the prosecutor.

Draws up evacuation plans for schools, hotels, hospitals, or other buildings required to have such plans. Oversees fire safety in public assembly occupancies at major events.

Examines the scene of a fire to determine the origin and cause and to determine if the fire could have been the result of arson. Interviews firefighters and witnesses to collect information. Examines the interior and exterior of the structure and the surrounding area. Searches for, identifies, and collects evidence and preserves it for analysis and later use in court. Completes a fire investigation report, including photographs, sketches, and diagrams, and all information the department deems necessary.

Collects information concerning the burned building and its contents, its owners and occupants, and possible arson suspects through interviews and search of records. Interrogates suspects and evaluates suspect's responses in order to obtain facts about a crime, identify the perpetrator, and substantiate a court prosecution.

Acts as a liaison with law enforcement or other arson investigation agencies to exchange information with regard to major investigations in progress.

Performs any related duties assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements listed below must be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States.

After offer of employment, but before beginning work in this class, must pass a physical examination, the selection and administration of which shall be authorized by the Appointing Authority, designed to demonstrate good health and physical fitness sufficient to perform the essential duties of the position, with or without accommodation.

Applicant must possess one of the following: high school diploma, general educational development (G.E.D.) certificate, high school transcript, affidavit from the issuing high school, associate's or bachelor's degree, or college transcript, any one of which must indicate that graduation has occurred or a degree awarded. A certification of completion shall not be sufficient to substitute for a diploma or G.E.D. certificate.

Must possess a valid driver's license.

Prior to beginning work in this class, must obtain a valid

Louisiana driver's license.

Prior to confirmation, must have obtained certification as Fire Inspector I and Fire Investigator I, as recognized by N.F.P.A. Standards.

MUST MEET EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of two (2) years full-time experience in fire suppression or fire prevention with a paid fire department or fire prevention agency;

OR

An Associate's Degree in Fire Science or Criminal Justice; or the successful completion of sixty (60) credit hours from an institution of higher learning in an accredited fire science or criminal justice curriculum;

OR

Four (4) years full-time experience in a related field such as industrial fire protection, fire-resistive building construction, or fire insurance claims adjusting which would require a familiarity with fire hazards, fire codes, and/or fire cause determination;

OR

Any combination of this experience or education which, in the opinion of the board, would satisfy the requirements for admission to the examination.

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